



Blasting is used to break up rock layers above the coal seam.



Rock is loaded into a truck and moved to a nearby area that is being reclaimed.



A shovel clears soil from the edge of the highwall and loads it into a truck.

# Surface Mining

## SURFACE MINING EQUIPMENT



A key to mining efficiency is moving material the fewest times and the least distance possible. Fifteen pieces of well-choreographed equipment are captured in this photo as one surface pit is being opened and another is refilled.



A shovel is removing the last bit of rock in this layer and loading into a haul truck.



The coal seam is exposed. End loaders load the coal into haul trucks.



The massive end loader holds approximately 16 cubic feet of coal or rock.



Coal is stockpiled near the preparation plant.



The pit has been refilled and leveled. The topsoil stands ready to be put back in place.



After mining, the land is reclaimed so that it meets or exceeds previous production standards.



State of Illinois



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